

Housing Committee  
Public Hearing, March 4, 2010  
Re: Senate Bill # 320

Testimony submitted by : Ana Estrada, 55 Willow Street, Meriden, CT  
06450

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the Housing Committee. My name is Ana Estrada. I live in Community Towers in Meriden, Connecticut. I am a tenant council board member at Community Towers and I am also a board member of the Public Housing Resident Network. I have been a public housing resident for over 15 years both in New Jersey and now here in Connecticut. I also served on our Tenant Council at Hudson Gardens in Jersey City, New Jersey as well.

I come before you today to speak in favor of Senate Bill # 320 – The selection of Tenant Commissioners. I feel this legislation is very important in that it allows for residents to elect their resident commissioner and for these additional reasons;

- it allows for residents to determine who will best represent their interests through a democratic process and having a forum to hear from all the candidates
- it sends a clear message to the resident commissioner who their constituency is; the residents.
- It gives residents the right to not only hold that commissioner accountable, but to also support that commissioner when he/she is working in their best interests.
- Most importantly this legislation will make residents an ongoing part of the process and will give them a stronger VOICE in the policies that impact their lives!

This is why I vote and this is why we do voter registration and turn - out in our building for local, state and national elections. It is our right to determine who can best represent us. This legislation is a continuation of that democratic process.

Thank you.